

THE TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

The Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) is a multi-modal capital program that assigns federal funds to highway, bridge, bikeway, pedestrian, transit, and demand management projects that will be undertaken over the next three to five years. Individual project listings identify the proposed schedule, scope, costs, and federal, state and local fund source assignment. Both federally and non-federally funded projects are shown to provide a comprehensive view of the transportation capital and operating projects in the region. Inclusion of a project in the TIP allows environmental study, project development and construction to proceed according to the schedule presented in the detailed project listing. The TIP also includes information on Air Quality Conformity and Energy.

The TIP is a required product of the transportation planning process and is developed by the Metropolitan Planning Organization in cooperation with State and local officials, regional and local transit operators, and other affected transportation and regional planning and implementing agencies. The program indicates the priority of proposed projects for implementation during the program period, and provides realistic estimates of total project costs versus the anticipated available resources. The TIP is an important product of the overall transportation planning process, since it is through the TIP that the Metropolitan Planning Organization commits to the implementation of transportation projects.

THE POUGHKEEPSIE-DUTCHESS COUNTY TRANSPORTATION COUNCIL

Every Metropolitan area in the United States with a population over 50,000 must have a designated Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for transportation in order to qualify for any federal highway or transit funding assistance. The simple purpose of each MPO is to provide a forum for state and local officials to discuss transportation issues and reach a consensus on transportation plans and specific programs of highway and transit projects. The U. S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) relies on each MPO to make sure that the highway and transit projects that are intended to use federal funds are the products of a credible planning process and meet the priorities of the metropolitan area. The USDOT will not approve urban highway and transit projects for use of federal funds unless they are on the area's TIP. There are thirteen Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) across New York State recognized by the State and Federal government to carry out transportation planning in each of the urbanized areas. The Poughkeepsie-Dutchess County Transportation Council (PDCTC) is the designated MPO for Dutchess County.

The Council is composed of elected officials of local government, and its membership includes the Dutchess County Executive; the Mayors of the Cities of Poughkeepsie and Beacon; the Supervisors of the Towns of Poughkeepsie, Fishkill, Wappinger, East Fishkill and Hyde Park; two rotating Supervisors from the partially-urbanized Towns of Pleasant Valley, LaGrange and Beekman; one rotating representative from the Villages of Fishkill and Wappingers Falls; two Town Supervisors from rural Dutchess County nominated by the Dutchess County Supervisor's Association each year representing the twelve rural towns in the county; as well as representatives of the New York State Department of Transportation and the Metropolitan

Transportation Authority. The New York State Thruway Authority, the New York State Bridge Authority, the Federal Highway Administration, and the Federal Transit Administration serve as advisory members of the Council.

FEDERAL FISCAL YEAR 2004 - 2006 TIP

The current three-year 2004-2006 TIP update process began in September 2002 under the direction of the Technical Committee of the PDCTC. The costs and schedules of existing projects were updated. Since this is a maintenance TIP of the previously approved 2002-2006 TIP, no additional projects were solicited for inclusion on the program. Each project sponsor was given the opportunity to re-evaluate its existing projects to incorporate project level changes involving cost, schedule, fund source, scope or delivery and the updated project information is the basis for this TIP. During several meetings, the Technical Committee reviewed the submitted changes. The updated draft TIP then underwent public review and a public meeting was held on July 29, 2003 for public comments on the proposed FFY 2004-2006 TIP. After the public comments were received and evaluated, the draft project listings were presented to the PDCTC Executive Committee and approved on August 29, 2003.

The 2004-2006 TIP document, adopted by the PDCTC Voting Members via Resolution 03-06, was transmitted to the New York State Department of Transportation, who in turn assembled the approved TIPs from all thirteen metropolitan planning organizations across New York State and added the capital programs for the rural counties. This final document constitutes the State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP), which was submitted to the Federal Highway Administration and the Federal Transit Administration. Approval by these Federal agencies concludes the Transportation Improvement Program update process, and except for changes made through established amendment procedures, results in the official Statewide Transportation Improvement Program to be used in its prescribed manner through until the next update is completed.